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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.



1. General Confederation of Trade Unions **(Special consultative status granted in 1998)**

Introductory Statement

The GCTU is a non-commercial regional trade union organisation affiliating national trade union centres in 11 countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, (CIS) (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine), and 32 industrial trade union internationals of the region, with a total membership of over 53 million people.

According to its Constitution "the GCTU was founded with the purpose of consolidating the efforts of its affiliated organisations to protect the social and labour rights and interests of workers in the CIS countries, the rights of trade unions and the guarantees of their activity, and strengthen international trade union solidarity". An important objective of the GCTU is to promote higher living standards, full and decent employment as well as economic and social progress in the CIS countries.

The GCTU is organisationally and financially independent and acts solely on the basis of its Constitution. It enjoys consultative status with the Council of Heads of State and Heads of Government, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and other CIS bodies.

The Confederation fully shares the ideas and supports the activities of the United Nations and its specialised agencies and is in consultative status with the International Labour Organisation, ILO, while actively participating in its Conferences and the Governing Body's sessions and assisting the GCTU affiliates in preparations for and the conduct of sectoral meetings.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies

Representatives of the GCTU affiliated organisations, acting also on behalf of the GCTU itself, regularly attended the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development. Their reports were subsequently discussed at the meetings of their governing bodies. GCTU representatives took part in all the annual ILO International Labour Conferences in Geneva and in most of its Governing Body's sessions held during the period under review.

As far back as in 1996, the GCTU applied to the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA) with a proposal to urge the CIS member-states to ratify the fundamental ILO Conventions. As a result, all the eight such Conventions have been ratified by the Parliaments of the countries where GCTU affiliates operate. In May 2004, the GCTU submitted to the IPA an additional list of 11 ILO Conventions that it feels should be also ratified. The IPA supported the GCTU proposal and called upon the parliaments to initiate the ratification of the Conventions specified in the GCTU list.

Based on the United Nations and ILO documents and with an active participation of the GCTU, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly worked out a number of framework laws over the reporting period on such issues as Tax Code (2002), Public Health (2003), Gender Equality (2004), Social Partnership (2004), etc.

The two GCTU Congresses held during the reporting period emphasised the importance of further work within the United Nations. Thus, the decisions of the 4th Congress (2002) highlighted the necessity "to put the work related to the Economic and Social Council and the Department of Public Information on a more regular basis".

In connection with the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002), the GCTU appealed to the Governments of the CIS countries "to undertake most serious steps in order to secure full implementation of international instruments on the protection of the environment including the occupational environment in the context of social development". In August 2003, the GCTU Executive Committee adopted a statement addressed to the heads of state and heads of government as well as leaders of parliaments of the CIS states urging these countries to accede to the United Nations Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families. Subsequently, the GCTU participated in working out a draft CIS Convention on the legal status of migrant workers based on the principles as contained in the United Nations instruments on this issue. On the 2 November 2004, the GCTU held an international seminar in Moscow on the problems of labour migration in the CIS and protection of migrant workers' rights and forwarded the conclusions adopted by the seminar participants to the Parliaments and Governments of the CIS countries.

The GCTU's International Conference "Globalisation of the Economy, Regional Integration and the Impact of these Processes on the Workers' Situation in the CIS Countries" (Moscow, 7-8 February 2002) stressed the importance of "strengthening the position of the United Nations and its specialised agencies in the globalising world". The role of the United Nations and ECOSOC was particularly highlighted by GCTU affiliates at the International Scientific and Action-oriented Conference on the Current Problems of the Trade Union Movement in the CIS (Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, 2002).

Promotion of information on the United Nations activity

The GCTU attaches great attention to this aspect by regularly publishing information on various documents of the United Nations and its bodies in the GCTU's publications, such as the monthly "Profsoyuzy" ("Trade Unions"), the biweekly "Vestnik Profsoyuzov" ("Trade Union Herald"), the quarterly "InformContact", etc. As an example, in 2002 the GCTU published the text of the Global Compact initiative, in 2003 – United Nations data on migration, in 2004 – a detailed description of the Millennium Declaration, a material on the structure and activity of the ECOSOC and the United Nations Sustainable Development Concept. Similar materials are placed on the GCTU web-site.

Over the period under review, the Confederation publicized and marked otherwise various United Nations observances and special days, such as United Nations Day, Human Rights Day, International Women's Day and other official dates included in the United Nations Events Calendar.

During the reporting period, GCTU representatives also took part in various events organised by the United Nations Information Centre and ILO Sub-regional Office in Moscow.

2. International Federation of Inspection Agencies

(Special consultative status granted in 2002)

Part I. Introduction

i. IFIA is the trade association for inspection agencies and other organizations that provide inspection, testing and certification services internationally. The promotion of integrity is one of the federation's top priorities.

IFIA was founded in 1982 and Members and Associate Members include the leading international inspection companies from around the world. They cover every field of inspection and related testing making IFIA's work and views truly representative of the profession.

IFIA is a nonprofit making organization. Its objectives are to review and, where possible, to improve the methods, standards, safety procedures and rules used and observed by Members for the benefit of Members and their clients.

IFIA promotes cooperation between inspection agencies, laboratories and allied businesses throughout the world in order to:

- Develop and coordinate technical and professional standards, methods of inspection and testing, and codes of practice
- Improve efficiency and establish standard procedures
- Develop methods of technical education and training
- Represent the profession to Government Authorities and Trade Associations
- Promote uniform interpretation of international conventions on safety and cooperate in their implementation.

ii. IFIA has made it a condition of membership as from 2004 that all member companies adopt and implement a Compliance Code that is approved by IFIA as implementing the IFIA Compliance Code, Second Edition 2005.

The Compliance Principles on which this Code is based address technical and business professional conduct and ethics in relation to the following areas:

- Integrity
- Conflicts of interest
- Confidentiality
- Anti-bribery
- Fair marketing.

It is a condition of IFIA membership that member companies implement and abide by the Compliance Code. This entails:

- approval of the Member's implementation by IFIA

- establishment of a Compliance Programme throughout the Member's organisation
- Implementation of policies and procedures in accordance with the Code
- training of staff globally, and
- regular monitoring of compliance with the Code through internal auditing.

To ensure the effectiveness of their implementation, Members are required to submit their Compliance Programme to an annual independent audit examination whose results are reported to IFIA.

Part II. Contribution of IFIA to the work of the United Nations

IFIA's main contribution to the work of the United Nations is through the facilitation of international trade. This is primarily achieved through the regular inspection of goods being traded to provide independent expert assurance that they meet relevant regulations and such other requirements as may be specified by authorities and purchasers. These requirements relate primarily to safety, security, environmental protection and quality.

In addition, IFIA has a specific function under the GATT 1986 Agreement on Preshipment Inspection. This relates to Government mandated inspection programmes to ensure the integrity of imports to the territory of the Government in question. IFIA assures the integrity and competence of the inspection companies that undertake these contracts on behalf of governments through the operation of its Code of Practice for Preshipment Inspection mandated by Governments (IFIA 1001). IFIA maintains an audit mechanism to ensure that those of its members that undertake such Preshipment Inspection contracts always operate in conformity with this Code of Practice throughout their operations, wherever in the world these may take place.

3. Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples

(Special consultative status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

i. Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV) is dedicated to a world characterized by justice and sustainability and supports the social change process that aims at recognition and protection of the right of self-determination of indigenous peoples. Within this context, the foundation supports in particular the rights and the social position of indigenous women. NCIV seeks to achieve this goal by: A. Supporting the active participation of indigenous people in policy-setting processes at local, national, regional and international levels; B. Supporting initiatives and projects of indigenous peoples; C. Monitoring and impacting the policies of national and international organizations at government, intergovernmental and non-governmental levels with regard to indigenous peoples; D. Promoting public awareness with regard to the situation of indigenous peoples; E. All other activities that directly or indirectly relate to the above.

ii. The nature and scope of NCIV's activities, aim's and purposes remain as described in our submission to Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) of 30 May 2000. However, the Articles of Association of the organization were amended on 28 April 2004, as approved by NCIV's Board of Directors on 14 April 2004, in order to bring the Articles of Association in line with the present organisational structure of NCIV and to fulfill the standards required to achieve a Netherlands quality mark for fundraising institutions ("CBF Keurmerk").

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i). Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

NCIV actively participated in the following United Nations meetings in which it not only provided technical and financial support to indigenous peoples but also lobbied for the promotion of their rights. The meetings attended during the time period of this report were:

1) "7th Session United Nations Inter-sessionnal Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 26 January - 8 February 2002, Geneva, Switzerland." 2) "2nd Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessionnal Working Group on Article 8(j), 4 - 8 February 2002, Montreal, Canada." 3)

"III. Preparatory Committee Meeting for United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, 25 March - 5 April 2002, New York City, United States." 4) "6th Conference to the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 7 - 19 April 2002, The Hague, The Netherlands."

5) "58th Session United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Agenda Item 15 Indigenous Issues 15 April 2002, Geneva, Switzerland." 6) "1st Session United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 13 - 24 May 2002, New York City, United States of America. NCIV presented an oral intervention under Agenda Item 5 General Debate." 7) "IV. Preparatory Committee Meeting for United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, 27 May - 7 June 2002, Bali, Indonesia." 8) "20th Session United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 22 - 26 July 2002, Geneva, Switzerland." 9) "United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26 August - 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa."

10) "8th Session United Nations Inter-session Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2 - 13 December 2002, Geneva, Switzerland." 11) "59th Session United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Agenda Item 15 Indigenous Issues, 11 April 2003, Geneva, Switzerland. On behalf of NCIV an oral intervention was made." 12) "11th Session United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, 28 April - 9 May 2003, New York City, United States." 13) "2nd Session United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 12 - 23 May 2003, New York City, United States." 14) "21st Session United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 21 - 25 July 2003, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland." 15) "Ecosoc Substantive Session of 2003, General Segment, 23 July 2003, Geneva, Switzerland. NCIV submitted a statement under Agenda Item 14 (h) Social and human rights questions: Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues." 16) "9th Session United Nations Inter-session Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 15 - 26 September 2003, Geneva, Switzerland." 17) "2nd Ad hoc Inter-session Working Group on Access & Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources, 1 - 5 December 2003, Montreal, Canada." 18) "3rd Ad hoc Inter-session Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions, 8 - 12 December 2003, Montreal, Canada." 19) "7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity, 9-20 February 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia." 20) "60th session United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Agenda Item 15 Indigenous Issues, 15 April 2004, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. NCIV submitted a written intervention under items 15 & 18 of the provisional agenda entitled: *Effective Functioning of Human Rights Mechanisms* (E/CN.4/2004/NGO/247). NCIV organized a side event 6 & 7 April 2004 entitled: *Indigenous experts and representatives of European Union governments meeting to further dialogue and build understanding on key points in The United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*" 21) "13th Session United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, 14 - 30 April 2004, New York City, United States." 22) "3rd Session United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 10 - 21 May 2004, New York, United States. NCIV submitted a written intervention on behalf of the IWBN under Agenda Item 3 Indigenous Women (E/C.19/2004/8). NCIV co-organized with the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) a side event on the topic of *Indigenous Women and Biodiversity*, 17 May 2004." 23) "22nd Session United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19 - 23 July 2004, Geneva, Switzerland." 24) "10th Session United Nations Inter-session Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration, 13 - 24 September & 29 November - 3 December 2004, Geneva, Switzerland." 25) "The United Nations International Workshop on Methodologies regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Indigenous Peoples, 17 - 19 January 2005, New York, United States." 26) "3rd Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 14 - 18 February 2005, Bangkok, Thailand." 27) "10-Year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 49th Session United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 28 February - 11 March 2005, New York City, United States." 28) "The 61st Session United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Agenda Item 15 Indigenous Issues, 11 April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland. NCIV submitted a written intervention under items 6 and 15 of the provisional agenda entitled: *Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and all Forms of Discrimination* (E/CN.4/2005/NGO/137). NCIV also made an oral intervention under Agenda Item 15 on 11 April 2005. NCIV co-organized the NGO side event *Advancing the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Critical Challenge for the International Community*

on 13 April 2005.” 29) “13th Session Commission on Sustainable Development, 11 - 22 April 2005, New York City, United States.” 30) “The 4th Session United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 16 - 27 May 2005, New York City, United States. NCIV submitted a written statement on behalf of the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network under the Agenda Item: Indigenous women (E/C.19/2004/8). NCIV co-organized with the IWBNI the side event “*Indigenous Women and the MDGs* on 24 May 2005.” 31) “The 1st Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Protected Areas, 13 - 17 June 2005, Montecatini, Italy.” 32) “The 23rd Session United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 18 - 22 July 2005, Geneva, Switzerland. NCIV organized a side event on the special theme entitled: *Indigenous Women & Traditional Knowledge*. 33) “The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 5 - 9 September 2005, Montreal, Canada.” 34) “11th Meeting Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, 28 November - 2 December 2005, Montreal, Canada.” 35) “11th Session United Nations Inter-session Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 5 - 16 December 2005, Geneva, Switzerland. NCIV co-submitted 3 major joint statements entitled : *General Provisions of the Draft U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (E/CN.4/2005/WG.15/CRP.2); *Urgent Need to Improve the U.N. Standard-Setting Process Importance of Criteria of “Consistent with International Law and its Progressive Development”* (E/CN.4/2005/WG.15/CRP.3); and , *Indigenous Peoples’ Right to Restitution* (E/CN.4/2005/WG.15/CRP.4).”

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

- An indigenous expert of the Tebtebba Foundation, sponsored by NCIV, contributed as a key expert and co-drafted the *Preliminary working paper on the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in relation to development affecting their lands and natural resources* (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2004/4) for the International Workshop on Methodologies regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Indigenous Peoples.
- NCIV is Board President of the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples, which collaborates with the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, in order to secure their full, effective participation in relevant United Nations human rights meetings.
- Through its Environmental Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network, NCIV collaborates with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity on the full, effective participation of indigenous peoples in meetings relevant to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and its subsidiary bodies.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by NCIV in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

The activities undertaken by NCIV under its Programme for the Promotion of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 2002 until 2005 are a contribution to the Programmes of Action of the United Nations Decade for the World’s Indigenous People. These activities can also be attributed to the Millennium Development Goals: Nr. 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and Nr. 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability). In the period 2002 until 2005, NCIV spent a total of 2,755,311 Euro on its objectives.

iv) Activities in Support of Global Principles

NCIV commemorated the closing of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004) with an international event, which included indigenous peoples from around the world, held on 9 December, 2004 in The Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands. In the evening a cultural programme was held also in the Hague, in the ethnographic museum *Museon*, which included indigenous cultural presentations and food. The event was publicly successful and received national media attention.

4. Peace Boat

(Special consultative status granted in 2002)

Part I – Introduction

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment, through the organization of global educational programs, responsible travel, cooperative projects and advocacy activities. The organization carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship creates a neutral, mobile space and enables people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the ports that we visit.

In the reporting period, Peace Boat has undertaken thirteen voyages for peace around the world, and launched two regional voyages for reconciliation in Northeast Asia. Over 10,000 people have participated in the onboard education programs for peace and sustainability, and many thousands more have partnered in cooperative activities in our ports of call.

A significant new affiliation in this reporting period is as the *Global Partner* of the UN-NGO-IRENE network, which aims to strengthen the partnerships between the United Nations and NGOs. As part of this network, Peace Boat is active in the development and plans for implementation of a program for education towards the Millennium Development Goals. A further new affiliation is as the Northeast Asia Regional Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) process. This has involved the organization both regional and internationally on dialogue concerning the partnerships between civil society, government and international organizations in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In 2005, Peace Boat became an NGO in Association with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. There have not been further substantive changes in the organization since attaining consultative status.

Part II – Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations' Meetings

NGO Section – Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Expert Round Table on the Development of New Academic Programs, Pedagogical Tools and Educational Software, for Promoting the Advancement and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Paris, France; 24 October, 2005). Attendance by Peace Boat Director. Oral comment made on Peace Boat's educational methodology and potential to participate in MDG education.

58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference: "Our Challenges: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal" (New York, United States of America; 7 – 9 September, 2005) At the plenary panel on "Collective Security: The Priorities of Civil Society", Peace Boat staff member spoke on human security and the principle of Article Nine of the Japanese constitution.

United Nations General Assembly Informal Hearings with Civil Society (New York, United States of America; 23 – 24 June, 2005) Peace Boat staff member made an oral comment on

disarmament under the agenda cluster of "Freedom from Fear," and submitted recommendations titled "Demilitarize Security and Develop Non-Violent Ways."

2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, United States of America; 2 – 27 May, 2005) Attended official meetings as observers. Multiple presentations at parallel NGO Forum: Peace Boat staff member spoke on youth activism at the workshop "Hibakushas call on a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone - testimonies and youth actions." Peace Boat staff member spoke on preventing nuclear confrontation on a panel with Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Nobuyasu Abe, at the workshop "Preventing Nuclear War: Preventing War." Peace Boat staff member spoke on Japan's nuclear policy at the workshop "An appeal to Japan for leadership-- Call for an indefinite postponement of the Rokkasho Reprocessing plant."

Tenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 10) (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 6 – 17 December, 2004) Attended conference as observer, and organized a public event in the city to raise awareness about the COP 10 process.

Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (Hiroshima, Japan; 19 – 21 September, 2004) Attended conference as observer (no presentations or oral/written contributions).

57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action" (UN Headquarters, New York, United States of America; 8 – 10 September, 2004) Attendance by three Peace Boat staff members. No presentations or oral/written contributions. Reception hosted onboard Peace Boat's ship.

NGO/Civil Society Forum on preparations for the ECOSOC High Level Segment 2004 on theme of "Resource Mobilization and Enabling Environment for Poverty Eradication in the Context of the Implementation of the Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 – 2010" (New York, United States of America; 18 March, 2004) Attendance by staff member. Oral contribution concerning the necessity of peace as a pre-condition for eradicating poverty and fulfilling the MDGs.

56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations (UN Headquarters, New York, United States of America; 8 – 10 September, 2003) Attendance by Peace Boat staff member. No presentations or oral/written contributions.

World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa; 26 August – 4 September, 2002) Participation as observer in main meetings. Organized a Peace Boat Day events in the parallel NGO forum focusing on the impact of conflict on sustainable development and published a statement entitled "No Peace Without Sustainability, No Sustainability Without Peace."

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters (includes attendance of meetings / conferences related to United Nations)

Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consultation with Civil Society on United Nations Reform (Tokyo, Japan; 30 August, 2005) Peace Boat, in partnership with Japan's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, co-sponsored this public forum for a policy consultation on UN Reform prior to the 2005 World Summit.

From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Conflict and Build Peace (UN Headquarters, New York, United States of America; July 19 – 21, 2005) Peace Boat led 40-strong delegation from Northeast Asia. Oral presentation by Peace Boat Director on disarmament. Four workshops (on women and conflict; peace education; peace constitutions and nuclear disarmament) organized.

Roundtable on Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) (United Nations University Headquarters (UNU), Tokyo, Japan; 4 February, 2005) Roundtable organized by Peace Boat to introduce and discuss the GPPAC Northeast Asia process. Attended by representatives of Japan's branches of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Japan's United Nations Information Center.

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Conference (UNU, Tokyo, Japan; February 2005) Concluding a year-long process, NGO actors from Northeast Asia finalized recommendations regarding the creation of a regional mechanism for maintaining peace in the region.

Asia Civil Society Forum 2004: "UN-NGO Partnerships for Democratic Governance in Asia : Building Capacities and Networks for Human Rights and Sustainable Development." (Bangkok, Thailand; 21 – 25 November, 2004) Staff member presented on Northeast Asia GPPAC process and Peace Boat organization.

Voices of Northeast Asian Youth at the United Nations (New York, United States of America; 10 September, 2004) With the support of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Peace Boat organized a presentation and discussion on peace-building in Northeast Asia.

UN-NGO IRENE Informal Regional Network Consultation in Montego Bay, Jamaica (Postponed) (Planned to be held on the occasion of Peace Boat's ship's call to Jamaica – September 2004) A conference of NGOs in Jamaica was organized to discuss progress on the Millennium Development Goals. Cancelled due to hurricane.

Roles for NGOs in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and Civil Society in Peacebuilding in Northeast Asia (Tokyo, Japan; 7 February, 2004) A symposium, organized in partnership between Peace Boat and the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations.

Cyberschoolbus - <http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/index.asp> Peace Boat has made several contributions to the United Nations' Global Teaching and Learning Program, and its educational website, Cyberschoolbus, focusing on issues encountered in the ports the ship visits.

iii) Initiatives undertaken in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals: Peace Boat organizes continuous lectures and workshops onboard relating to development and peace issues and has reached over 10,000 people in the reporting period. The organization has been participating in the process to develop and implement education programs towards the MDGs, and this will be a key activity

for Peace Boat in the years ahead. Besides its educational programs, the organization has worked in partnership with local organizations throughout the world to implement projects in support of the MDGs. These activities have included a food security project in Colombia, the development of education infrastructure through the construction of community computer centers in post-tsunami Sri Lanka, the delivery of medical support goods to civilians in Iraq and emergency relief in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan.

iv) Activities in Support of Global Principles: Peace Boat is an active partner of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) and made a written contribution to the "World Report on a Culture of Peace", referenced in A/RES/60/L.5. The organization led a 2004 campaign for the establishment of an *Ekecheiria* (Olympic Truce) during the Athens Olympics. Peace Boat observed the United Nations International Day of Peace on 21 September, 2005 with a festival and symposium onboard the ship.

5. World Road Association

(Special consultative status granted in 1970)

Founded in 1909, the World Road Association, formerly known as the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses, changed its name in 1995 following the formulation of its first Strategic Plan, though retaining the original acronym, PIARC, and it adjusted its statutes accordingly. It remains a non-political and non-profit-making association. In 1970, it was granted Category II consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. English and French are its two official working languages, but others such as Spanish are used in Council meetings and in some other official events like the congresses.

The Association, which since 1996 has had its own Internet site (www.piarc.org), aims to develop international cooperation and to promote progress in:

- The determination of road transport policies;
- The design, construction, planning and maintenance of roads;
- The operation and management of road networks;
- The transfer of technology, particularly to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Its activities are conducted within the framework of quadrennial strategic plans, the latest one covering the period 2002-2005.

At the end of 2005, PIARC comprised 109 member countries, 591 group members and more than 1,150 individual members in over 120 countries. The member countries are represented by directors of road administrations or persons of equivalent rank. The new countries which have joined the Association during this quadrennium are, in alphabetical order: Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ghana, Iceland, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Swaziland, Togo, and Viet Nam.

As can be seen, it is basically developing countries or countries with economies in transition that are now joining the developed countries, all of which are PIARC members.

During this same 2002-2005 period, PIARC oversaw the work of 19 technical committees and working groups comprising experts prominent in their fields, who also undertook missions on behalf of international organizations such as the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) or the United Nations. These committees and working groups produced some 40 reports, which received wide distribution. (It should be noted that these documents will soon be available to all on the PIARC website.) During the period in question, the documents included some consolidated reports that serve as references in the field: the Pavement Recycling Guidelines issued in 2003, the Road Safety Handbook published in 2005, and the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Handbook, relating to computer sciences and techniques, issued in 2005.

Members of the committees and working groups, together with other experts, also write articles for the Association's quarterly magazine *Routes/Roads*, a bilingual English-French review published in over 5,000 copies and distributed in 123 countries.

In addition to these reference materials, there are the proceedings of the quadrennial PIARC congresses, which during this period were:

- The XIth International Winter Road Congress, held in Sapporo, Japan, from 21 to 28 January 2002, with 2,300 participants from 61 countries, including 7 ministers, at which Mr. Adolf Ogi, the Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, gave the opening statement;
- The XXIIInd World Road Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, from 19 to 25 October 2003 at the invitation of South Africa, which brought together 3,500 participants from 107 countries, over 40 of them ministers in charge of roads and road infrastructures.

The publications issued for these Congresses, and for the many seminars also organized by PIARC, constitute a unique source of information on the current worldwide status of road and road transport issues.

PIARC still has its Special Fund, intended to facilitate participation in the Association's activities by representatives of member countries whose annual per capita gross national product (GNP) is lower than US\$ 3,100, by financing part of their travel or accommodation expenses. Furthermore, to encourage the dissemination of information and the establishment of networks in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition, PIARC has a broad programme of thematic seminars — approximately 30 per four-year cycle — which are held in the different continents.

PIARC has also since 1994 maintained the World Interchange Network (WIN), which aims to establish contacts between practitioners and experts with a view to meeting the needs of the international road community. It relies on the Internet, which makes it easier to disseminate expertise, especially in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

In addition, in order to meet the need for methodological tools for the technical-economic study of investment problems encountered by the developing countries and countries with economies in transition in connection with the construction and maintenance of road networks, PIARC has since 1996 taken over from the World Bank the task of developing the Highway Development and Management System (HDM-4) software programme. During the current quadrennium, the Association has been overseeing the development of a version 2.

Beyond these scientific, technical and economic activities, PIARC has for many years been making a sustained effort to standardize road terminology and road and engineering terms, and thus its Committee on Terminology has produced various glossaries, lexicons and dictionaries available online to PIARC members. The languages covered to date are French, English, Spanish, Hungarian, Russian, Japanese, Portuguese, German, Dutch, Italian, Vietnamese and Serbo-Croatian.

Some PIARC activities are conducted in cooperation with United Nations agencies, as, for example, in the case of the participation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the work of Technical Committee 2.5 on Rural Roads and Accessibility, or the participation of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the work of Technical Committee 3.1 on Road Safety. The kind of work being done often falls within a very broad context, such as that of

the Millennium Development Goals. For instance, questions that touch on the achievement of sustainable access, a prerequisite for the conduct of and involvement in economic life, for education and for health care are related to Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education; Goal 4. Reduce child mortality; and Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability. Also, the seminars, the World Interchange Network and the support provided by the PIARC Special Fund for delegates from developing countries further Goal 8. Developing a global partnership for development.

In conclusion, the World Road Association remains an unparalleled forum for the exchange of experience, because of its neutrality, its impartiality, and the absence of any advocacy for particular economic interests. The growing number of developing countries joining the Association testifies to the interest that the professionals in those countries have for the summary reports, the sharing of experience and the participation in expert networks offered by PIARC. By regularly updating its goals and missions under its four-year strategic plans, PIARC manages to take into account developments in the world socio-economic context in order to respond to the needs of the international community with respect to road and road transport issues.